

MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS

AGN. NO. _____
September 6, 2016

CORRECTIONAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

At the June 9, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board approved the proposed integrated jail health services organizational structure and the transition of jail health staff from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Medical Services Bureau (MSB) to the Department of Health Services (DHS). The new structure is called the Integrated Correctional Health Services (ICHS).

A critical component of the ICHS program is adequate clinician staffing at all 5 LAC jail sites. Recruitment and retention of quality clinician staff within LAC jails has been challenging, as it is throughout correctional health settings nationwide. The use of mid-level providers in correctional settings has long been used as a key strategy to meet staffing needs and to provide a diverse and committed clinician workforce within correctional settings. LAC already depends on and values many nurse practitioners in LAC jails. Because nurse practitioners can work independently throughout the jails and collaborate well with doctors in the care of patients, recruitment of more nurse practitioners within the ICHS care model will reduce the reliance on physicians as the dominant workforce in the LAC jail and allow for a more balanced and cost effective staffing plan.

In an effort to meet the staffing needs of the ICHS and to provide a career path for nurses who have been committed to patients in LAC jails, expansion of the mid-level provider workforce in the jails is both prudent and strategic.

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

SOLIS _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) direct the Director of the Department of Health Services, to:

1. Identify a local nurse practitioner training program capable of delivering a high quality, correctional health focused curriculum to prepare up to twenty (20) current LASD medical services bureau (MSB) nurses to become family nurse practitioners or psychiatric nurse practitioners to work in the jails; and
2. To execute a contract to begin the 18 month training program this fall or as soon as is possible to provide training to the 20 nurses identified to be part of this program and provide a one-time psychiatric refresher course for 10 Registered Nurses (RN's) who are currently working in the LASD jails. The contract should not exceed \$600,000 for the full-length of the program; and
3. Report back to the BOS within 60 days the progress in achieving recommendations 1 and 2 above including a report on how potential candidates will be or have been selected to participate. This should include a description of how nursing participants will commit to a number of years of service as a nurse practitioner in the LAC jail system in exchange for being part of this exciting program at no expense to them.
4. Direct DHS and LASD to work with CEO Classifications, and report back within 180 days to the BOS, to ensure that currently vacant budgeted positions that are part of MSB or integrated correctional health can be reclassified to ensure an adequate number of nurse practitioner positions are available to hire the newly trained workforce after the training program is completed and that such new positions are creating an a cost neutral manner.